MARVEL
#1 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THE VISION
AND THE Scarlet Witch
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Lovers AND ZOMBIES!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
VISION
PROLOGUE "MIDNIGHT" IN PROJECT PEGASUS UPSTATE NEW YORK -
HIS WIFE'S STILL HERE GYRICH!
WIFE?! HA!
TELL HER WE'LL CALL HER WHEN WE NEED HER, AND SHE SHOULD GO HOME AND REST! OUR INVESTIGATION-
-MAY TAKE DAYS, Mrs. - eh--
LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY, AGENT SIMONSKI! YOUR INVESTIGATION HAS GONE ON FOR FOURTEEN HOURS NOW--
-AND GOVERNMENT OR NO GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE JUST ONE MOVE TO FINISH WITH MY HUSBAND!
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
A 39-PAGE THRILLER
BY
STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY
RICHARD HOWELL
PENCILING
ANDY MUSHYNSKY
INKING
L. LOIS BUHALIS
Letterer
J. JACKSON/A. PHILLIPS
Coloring
JIM SALICRUP
Editing
JIM SHOOTER
Editor-in-Chief
AND THE
Scarlet Witch

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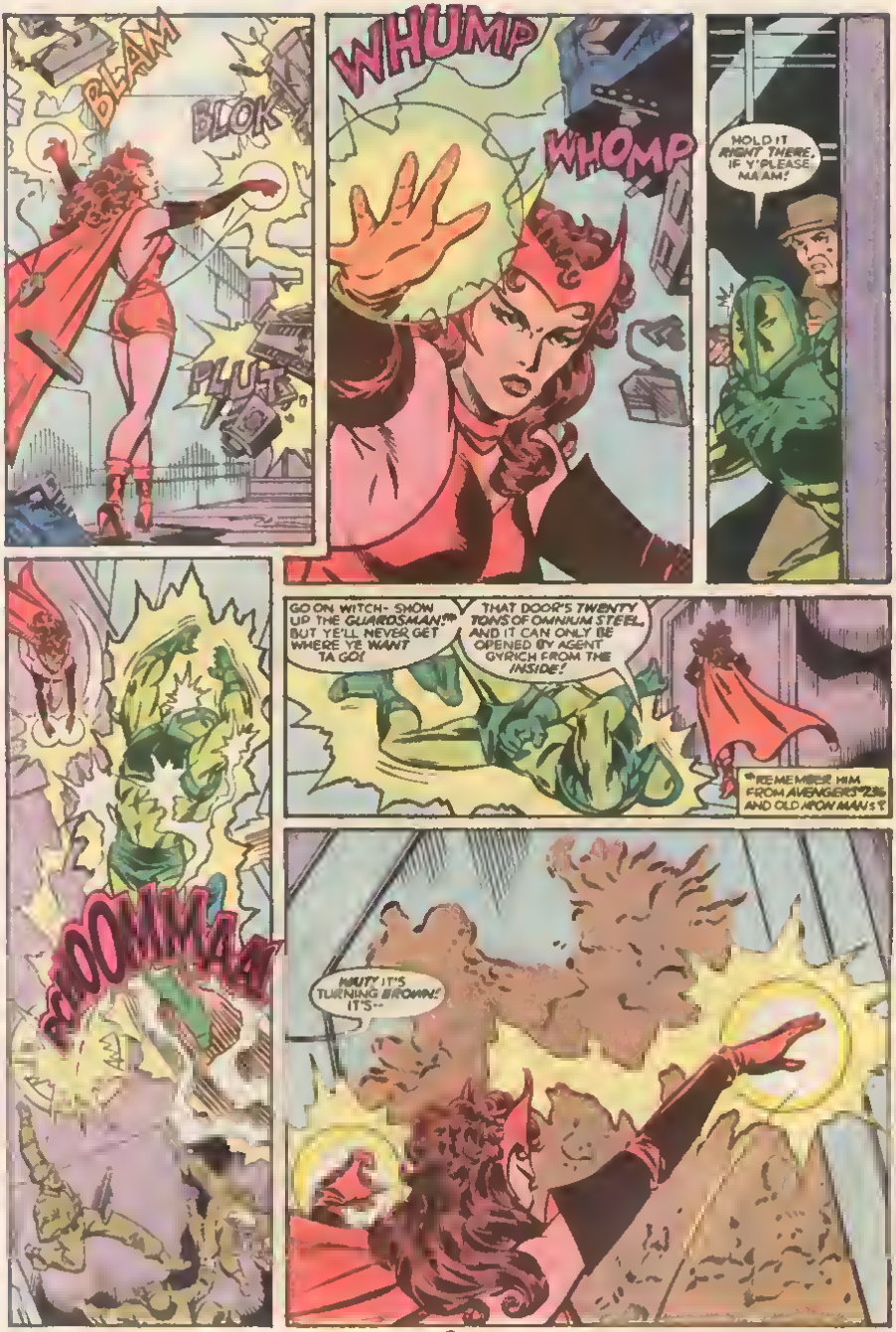
SHE'S THREATENING US GYRICH! AND FRANKLY--I THINK SHE HAS REASON!
YOU DO, hunh? WELL, I'M THE AGENT IN CHARGE WHEN IT COMES TO AVENGERS--AS WELL AS MUTANTS, FOR ALL THAT.
--AND I'LL DECIDE WHAT REASON IS!
WE'RE THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, MAN--RUNNING AN INTERNAL SECURITY INVESTIGATION ON THIS ANDROID'S ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD! WE HAVE THE RIGHT AND THE DUTY TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TRY IT AGAIN!
WE'RE ALSO DEEP INSIDE PROJECT PEGASUS, A PLACE SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO KEEP SUPER-VILLAINS IN--OR OUT! SO WE HAVE TOTAL PROTECTION AS WELL!
THAT MAY BE, BUT HE REMOVED THE CONTROL CRYSTAL WHICH ALLOWED THE ALIEN COMPUTER TO DIRECT HIM!
AVENGERS #254
HE'S COOPERATED COMPLETELY SINCE THEN, AND WE'VE FOUND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
YOU'VE BEEN BEHIND A DESK TOO LONG, RAYMOND! THERE ALWAYS SOMETHING.
ANDROID--TELL ME AGAIN WHY YOU'VE STARTED TO TALK THE WAY YOU DO!
--AND IN MEASURED BUT VERY HUMAN TONES REPLIES--
AGENT GYRICH, I AM NOT, IN FACT, AN ANDROID, BUT A SYNTHOZOID--ONE WHO REPRODUCES ALL HUMAN FUNCTIONS, BOTH MENTAL AND ORGANIC
--IN SHORT, AN ARTIFICIAL MAN!
THE THIRD FORM IN THE ROOM STIRS FOR THE FIRST TIME--
AND I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO INSULT MY WIFE AGAIN!
TAP TAP TAP

WHEN I WAS FIRST BUILT, I SPOKE WITH A VOICE LIKE ANY OTHER MAN! INDEED, THAT'S WHY I WAS CALLED THE HUMAN TORCH!
WHAT-?
MY GOD, HE IS CRACKING UP!
RELAX, RAYMOND! IF YOU HADN'T COME ON BOARD SO RECENTLY--!
I WAS CREATED BY PROFESSOR PHINEAS HORTON IN 1939!
ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE SUB MARINER, THE WHIZZER AND OTHERS, I FOUGHT CRIME UNTIL 1955.
"--WHEN I WENT NOVA AND DIED!
"BUT AN ARTIFICIAL MAN CAN KNOW ONLY ARTIFICIAL DEATH! AFTER MANY YEARS, THE MAD THINKER REACTIVATED MY BODY-- BUT NOT MY MIND--TO USE AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR--
"BUT BEING INCOMPLETE, I LOST MY BATTLE WITH THE NEW HUMAN TORCH--
"--AND FELL INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE LIVING ROBOT THEN KNOWN AS ULTRON-81.

ULTRON HAD BEEN CREATED BY HENRY PYM (KNOWN THEN AS GOLIATH- BUT THE INTELLIGENCE PYM HAD GIVEN IT WAS UNSTABLE! ULTRON WAS FED TO KILL ITS FATHER--
-EVEN AS IT WANTED TO FATHER A 'SON,' SINCE THIS WAS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR IT IT MADE USE OF ME!
HE FOUND THE AGED PROFESSOR ASTON AND FORCED HIM TO RE-FASHION MY FORM IN ITS CURRENT STATE
-REPLACING MY ABILITY TO FLAME ON WITH THE ABILITY TO ALTER MY MASS AND SOLIDITY--
-AND ADDING THE ABILITY TO ABSORB AND DISCHARGE SOLAR POWER THROUGH THE JEWEL IN MY BROW!
FINALLY, IN HIS DESIRE TO MAKE ME MORE 'MECHANICAL,' LIKE HIMSELF, ULTRON BULK ERASED MY MIND AND GAVE ME A NEW VOICE AND PERSONALITY--
-INCIDENTALLY USING THE RECORDED BRAIN PATTERNS OF WONDER MAN AS A MODEL!
WONDER MAN BRAIN PATTERNS
BUT I WAS NOT TO BE A SECOND SIMON WILLIAMS: MECHANICAL OR OTHERWISE! FROM THAT SEED I GREW INTO SOMEONE UNIQUE!
ULTRON PLANNED TO USE ME AGAINST THE AVENGERS, BUT MY MIND, LIKE HIS, COULD NOT BE RESTRAINED FROM INDEPENDENT THOUGHT!
FEELING THE GOOD WITHIN ME, THOUGH NOT THEN KNOWING WHAT I'VE JUST RELATED-- I TURNED AGAINST HIM--
-AND JOINED THE AVENGERS, INSTEAD!
CRASH!

THERE I MET MY FUTURE BRIDE--WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH!
--FOR MANY MONTHS AFTER MEETING HER, I FOUGHT AGAINST MY GROWING AFFECTION FOR HER STILL CONSIDERING MYSELF A SOULLESS MACHINE--
--BUT WHEN I LEARNED THE TRUTH--THAT I HAD BEEN CREATED TO BE EXACTLY LIKE A HUMAN --I SAW THAT I COULD TRULY BE HER MAN--
ENOUGH! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS SORT OF THING!
YOU MIS-UNDERSTAND ME, GYRICH!
MY ONLY POINT IS THAT I LEARNED THEN THAT I WAS MORE THAN A MERE MACHINE--
--AND THEN, WHEN I TRANSCENDED MYSELF THROUGH CONNECTION TO ISAAC, I FINALLY SAW MYSELF--FROM THE OUTSIDE, AS IT WERE--IN MY ENTIRETY!
I HAD THOUGHT MYSELF--WE HAD ALL THOUGHT ME--A CONSTRUCT CARRYING AROUND A SELECTION OF HUMAN BRAIN PATTERNS--
--WHEN IN FACT, I AM A HUMAN MIND DIRECTING AN ARTIFICIAL BODY!
SOME MEN HAVE PROSTHETIC ARMS, OR LEGS, OR EYES! I HAVE PROSTHETIC EVERYTHING--
--BUT IT IS I WHO HAVE THEM! THEY ARE NOT I!
I SOUND HUMAN NOW BECAUSE I AM HUMAN!
TIME'S UP!
RESTRICTED

I'M SORRY, MA'AM, BUT AGENT GYRICH LEFT STRICT ORDERS--
HM-M--?
SSHHIKK!
NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT DOOR WON'T OPEN WITHOUT MY PUNCHING IN A PRECISE CODE! NO ONE COULD GUESS--
I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS, GUARD! I CAN ALTER PROBABILITIES WITH MY HEX SPHERES!
I'M THE SCARLET WITCH!
PLEASE REMAIN STILL FOR A MULTI-PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITE OF YOUR VISUAL CONFIGURATION!
HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. GYRICH!
SSHHIKK!
WARNING! SUBJECT'S WEIGHT DOES NOT CONFORM TO GYRICH, P.!


BLAM
BLOK
PLUT
WHUMP
WHOMP
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, IF Y'PLEASE, MA'AM!
GO ON WITCH- SHOW UP THE GUARDSMAN!!" BUT YE'LL NEVER GET WHERE YE WANT TA GO!
THAT DOOR'S TWENTY TONS OF OMNIUM STEEL, AND IT CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY AGENT GYRICH FROM THE INSIDE!
"REMEMBER HIM FROM AVENGERS "23, AND OLD IRON MAN'S T
KRAAA
HOLY! IT'S TURNING BROWN! IT'S--

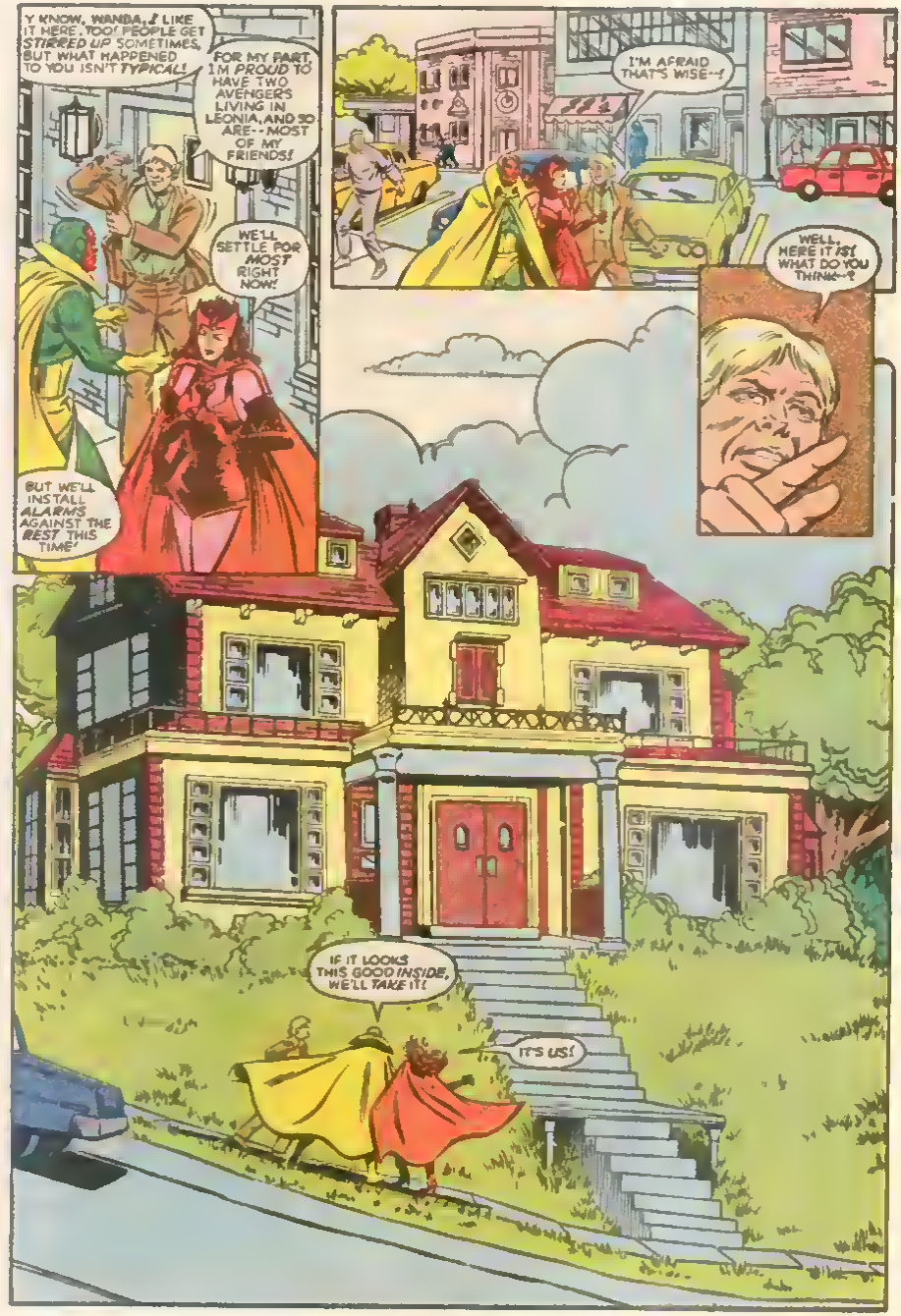
KA-RASH!!
GIVE ME BACK MY HUSBAND!
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ONCE-THIS IS NOT A GOOD THING TO DO, AND I'M ONLY GOING TO TELL YOU ONCE!
THE VISION'S BODY IS SYNTHETIC--WE ALL KNOW THAT! IF IT WERE, ELECTRONICALLY, HE WOULD HAVE CERTAIN PROBLEMS! SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS BLACK! IF IT WERE A MUTANT, HE'D HAVE PROBLEMS!
BUT HE'S A SYNTHOZOID! THAT MEANS HIS MIND CAN BE TAKEN OVER ELECTRONICALLY, AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS! YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR THAT!
DO IT!
BY GOD, RAYMOND
DO IT! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID?
A LOT OF WHILE SERVING
YOU CAN'T DO THIS, BITCH! HE'S NOT A MUTANT! HE HAS NO RIGHTS! ME, ON THE OTHER HAND
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE ONE MINUTE TO LET HIM GO, WITH ALL CHARGES DROPPED, OR I'LL BURN DOWN THIS WHOLE PLACE!

I CAN BLAME HIM IF I WANT TO! WE HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES!
HE'S A PERSON, BLAST IT!
SO YOU SAY! SO HE SAYS! BUT EITHER WAY, YOU'RE BOTH AVENGERS, AND AVENGERS ARE SUBJECT TO WHATEVER GOVERNMENT CONTROL WE DECIDE ON!
THEN GUESS WHAT, GYRICH--
WE QUIT!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT--!
I JUST DID! IF THIS IS THE WAY YOU TREAT PEOPLE WHO'VE SAVED THIS WORLD MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN COUNT, WE'D RATHER BE PRIVATE CITIZENS!
YOU AGREE, DARLING?
OF COURSE, MY LITTLE WITCH!
I DO FEEL GUILTY FOR WHAT I DID WHILE TIED TO ISAAC, EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T MYSELF, SO I HAVE COOPERATED FULLY WITH THESE MEN--
--BUT I HAVE A LIFE TO LIVE NOW!
THEN GO, VISION! LIVE IT! I'LL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY!
WHAT--?
OH, AND ONE LAST THING, AGENT GYRICH! I LIKE CHANGING MY COSTUME NOW AND THEN, AND RECENTLY I'VE GONE BACK TO WEARING EVENING GLOVES--
HOPE YOU LIKE THEM!

LOVERS
UPPER LEVELS
LOWER LEVELS RESEARCH

NINE O'CLOCK THAT MORNING, AS A CUSTOMIZED SCARLET MG TC ROLLS SMARTLY INTO THE NEW JERSEY HAMLET OF LEONIA...
THE TRUE STORY BEGINS...
STARING AT US--! SOMEWHERE AMONG THESE PEOPLE ARE MORE BIGOTS-- THE ONES WHO BURNED OUR HOUSE?!
ARE YOU SURE YOU STILL WANT TO LIVE HERE?
MOST ORIENTALLY! WE MUST MAKE THIS IGNORANCE JUST AS WE FACED BYRON'S!
WE MUST'N'T RUN, OR WE'LL RUN FOREVER!
SEE AVENGERS #252.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE!
AND STILL THEY WONDER WHY I LOVE YOU!
AND I FEEL MY LOVE FOR YOU--MY CONTACT WITH YOU--MORE ACUTELY THAN EVER BEFORE!
OH, VISION
WE'LL WIN OUR NEIGHBORS BACK BY OUR EXAMPLE! CERTAINLY I'LL SHOW MY HUMANITY TO BETTER ADVANTAGE NOW!
I'M NOT SO SURE BEING HUMAN IS ALL THAT DESIRABLE, THESE DAYS! OH, TO THINK IT IS, OF COURSE--
WELL, AS HOMO SUPERIOR, I COULD ECHO ALL YOUR ISAAC-INDUCED SPEECHES ABOUT THE LIMITATIONS OF HOMO SAPIENS!
THE CLIMATE FOR TOLERANCE IN THIS COUNTRY HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED SINCE I FIRST CAME HERE!
YES, BUT IT WILL CHANGE AGAIN! THE ONLY THING CERTAIN IN LIFE IS CHANGE! AS YOU TAUGHT ME IN HELPING ME RESIST THE MASTER COMPUTER!
I DID, DIDN'T I?
OH WELL--SO WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT AS HAWKEYE WOULD SAY!

HELLO! MY MY WIFE AND I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A HOUSE!
--WHY, OF COURSE, SIR!
MY NAME IS NORM WEBSTER! WOULD YOU CARE TO STEP INTO OUR CONFERENCE ROOM--?
WHAT WE HAD IN MIND, Mr. WEBSTER, IS SOMETHING SIMILAR TO OUR OLD HOUSE! I IMAGINE YOU'LL REMEMBER IT--!
NATURALLY, Mr. --uh-- VISION!
IS THAT RIGHT?
VISION IS FINE!
AND YOU MAY CALL ME WANDA!
AND YOU CAN CALL ME NORM! BUT-- VISION, WANDA-- HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THIS CAREFULLY?
LISTEN, I'LL BE GLAD TO SELL YOU A HOUSE--IN FACT, I KNOW ONE THAT'D BE PERFECT FOR YOU-- BUT, WELL, THE CLIMATE FOR TOLERANCE IN THIS AREA'S NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS!
YOU'D HAVE
HA HA HA HA HA
DID I SAY SOMETHING FUNNY--?
SORRY! WE JUST HAD THIS DISCUSSION!
YES, NORM, WE'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT-- AND WE STILL WANT TO LIVE IN LEONIA! WE LIKE IT HERE, STRANGE AS IT MAY SOUND!
THEN LET'S GO LOOK AT THIS HOUSE! IT'S ONLY TWO BLOCKS FROM HERE!


Y KNOW, WANDA, I LIKE IT HERE, TOO! PEOPLE GET STIRRED UP SOMETIMES, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ISN'T TYPICAL!
FOR MY PART, I'M PROUD TO HAVE TWO AVENGERS LIVING IN LEONIA, AND SO ARE - MOST OF MY FRIENDS!
WE'LL SETTLE FOR MOST RIGHT NOW!
BUT WE'LL INSTALL ALARMS AGAINST THE REST THIS TIME!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S WISE--!
WELL, HERE IT IS! WHAT DO YOU THINK--?
IF IT LOOKS THIS GOOD INSIDE, WE'LL TAKE IT!
IT'S US!

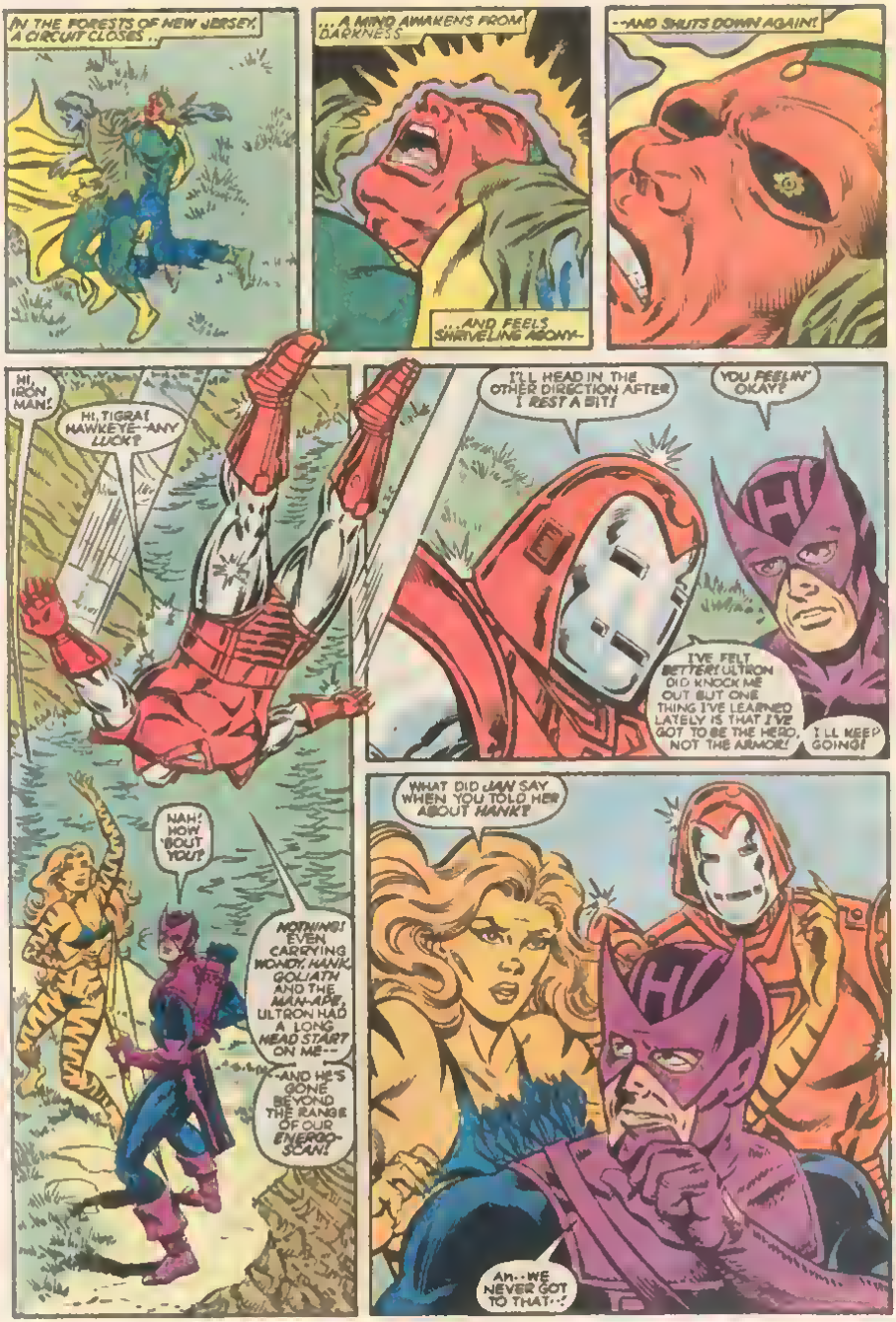
CUT
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE REACHED 5-5-1-3-2-4 IS NOT IN SERVICE AT THIS TIME! THE NEW NUMBER IS AREA CODE 2 1-2 -6-4-6 --
DARN IT, VIZH, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
NO ANSWER--?
NAH! SIMON TOLD US VIZH'S HOUSE WAS BURNED DOWN, BUT I HOPED HIS FORWARDING NUMBER WOULDN'T BE AVENGERS MANSION--!
OW! THAT ULTRON REALLY GAVE ME A WHACK!
YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL THE EAST COASTERS--?
WELL, NOW, TIGRA, IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO CALL 'EM! IT'S JUST THAT--
--I DON'T WANT TO CALL 'EM!
I WANT OUR GROUP TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET!
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL HAN THAT ULTRON GOT HANK!
UH, YEAH--THAT, TOO--!!
WE'RE SURE EVERYBODY READING THIS HAS ALREADY SAVORED WEST COAST AVENGERS #1, NOW ON SALE--BUT IF SOMEHOW YOU HAVEN'T, YOUR LIFE WILL BE UNBELIEVABLY EMPTY IF YOU CHECK IT OUT SOMETIME IN THE NEXT, oh, THREE HOURS! WHO WE CAN'T DO SOFT SELL?

SO CONACT THE OWNER SEE WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!
I CAN LET YOU KNOW TOMORROW!
FINE! IN THE MEANTIME, WE'D LIKE TO LOOK AROUND A LITTLE MORE!
GO AHEAD! YOU'VE MADE A GOOD CHOICE HERE!
BYE!
IT HAS A NICE AURA, VISION! VERY OLD AND VERY SECURE!
PLENTY OF PRIVACY, BUT NEIGHBORS WITHIN HAILING DISTANCE!
YOU KNOW, WANDA, IF YOU ADDED THE TWO OF US TOGETHER AND AVERAGED, YOU'D GET TWO NORMAL PEOPLE!
I HAVE NO EMPATHY FOR YOUR HIDDEN WORLDS, AND YOU--
WHAT IS IT?
AROUND US -ALL AROUND US--
ATTACK!

ZOMBIES--!
THE WORD HANGS IN MID-AIR, AND IT DOESN'T NEED A METALLIC VOICE TO MAKE IT THE ESSENCE OF HORROR!
ZOMBIES--THE LIVING DEAD! SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT SUPER-VILLAINS--AT LEAST THEY'RE ALIVE!
THESE SHUFFLING CORPSES MAY LACK THE RAW POWER OF AN ULTRON-12 OR DR. DOOM--
--BUT THEY FEEL NO PAIN--
--AND THEY JUST KEEP COMING!
THEY JUST KEEP COMING!
EVEN BECOMING AS HARD AS DIAMOND DOESN'T STOP THEM--
--SO I'LL TRY THE OTHER EXTREME!

LIKE A PALE GREEN GHOST, THE ENIGMATIC AVENGER PLUNGES HIS HAND DEEP INTO THE MOULDERING CHEST BEFORE HIM--
--AND SOLDIERING IT--
--WITH STUPIFYING RESULTS!
EEEEEE
AAAAA
YES THE FLESH THERE IS DEAD, BUT IT MOVES AT THE URGING OF ARCANE POWER--
--POWER WHICH BURNS THROUGH SYNTHOZOID FLESH WITH DEVASTATING EFFECT!
LOSING CONTROL--!
MRRRGHHH!
EEEAAAAAA
VISION!
KLUNK!

CUT!
UH, HI, WASPIE! I'M, UH, LOOKIN' FOR THE VISION--!
IS IT IMPORTANT, HAWKEYE?
UH, YEAH! REMEMBER I TOLD YOU ABOUT ULTRON? WELL, I THINK NOW HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE GRIM REAPER--
--AND THEY'RE AFTER THE VISION, TOO!
OKAY, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, BUT WE'RE OVERRUN WITH GOVERNMENT AGENTS RIGHT NOW! WE WERE ALREADY ON THEIR HIT LIST BECAUSE OF VISION'S ATTEMPT TO RULE THE WORLD--
--AND NOW WANDA AND HE HAVE QUIT THE GROUP!
YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS?
HAVEN'T A CLUE!
LISTEN, HAWKEYE, THEY'RE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF YOUR GROUP'S CREATION WAS ANOTHER PART OF THE VISION'S MASTER PLAN!
I REMINDED THEM THAT AGENT KORSKI PRONOUNCED THE IDEA PERFECTLY LOGICAL, BUT DON'T MAKE ANY MORE WAVES THAN YOU HAVE TO!
PHOOEY ON 'EM! NOBODY'S GONNA SHUT DOWN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS! NOBODY!
AND NEITHER ARE WE GONNA ABANDON THE VIZH IF HE'S IN TROUBLE! AND YOU CAN TELL 'EM I SAID SO!
HEY! NOBODY'S ABANDONING ANYBODY--I'LL SEND STARFOX TO SCOUT AROUND LEONIA AS SOON AS WE GET FREE HERE--
--BUT THIS IS A COMPLICATED PROBLEM!
MAYBE--BUT I'M NOT A COMPLICATED PROBLEM SOLVER!
LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING! MEANTIME, I'LL KEEP MY CREW BUSY SEARCHING FOR THE BADDIES OUT HERE!


IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES...
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS...
...AND FEELS SHRIVELING AGONY-
--AND SHUTS DOWN AGAIN!
HI, IRON MAN!
HI, TIGRA! HAWKEYE--ANY LUCK?
NAH! HOW 'BOUT YOU?
NOTHING! EVEN CARRYING WONDY, HANK, GOLIATH AND THE MAN-APE, ULTRON HAD A LONG HEAD START ON ME--
--AND HE'S GONE BEYOND THE RANGE OF OUR E'NERGO-SCAN!
I'LL HEAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION AFTER I REST A BIT!
YOU FEELIN' OKAY?
I'VE FELT BETTER! ULTRON DID KNOCK ME OUT BUT ONE THING I'VE LEARNED LATELY IS THAT I'VE GOT TO BE THE HERO, NOT THE ARMOR!
I'LL KEEP GOING!
WHAT DID JAN SAY WHEN YOU TOLD HER ABOUT HANK?
Am--WE NEVER GOT TO THAT--!

IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS
...AND FEELS SWIRLING AGONY--
--AND SHUTS DOWN AGAIN!
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS NOT THE ONE I SENT YOU FOR!
BUT MAS--TER--
GREEN. ONE. ZOM--BIE NOW
NO. TAKE... ZOM--BIE.
WHAT'RE THEY ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW, NEKRA. HE WHO ASSUMES POWERS OF THE BLACK TALON AS ZOMBIE LORD, BUT EVEN I CANNOT ALWAYS FATHOM THEIR LIMITED THOUGHTS.
LAST SEEN IN SPIDER-WOMAN #30, AVENGERS #182.
"WELL, WE MUST FIND THE VISION! THE GRIM REAPER WILL BE HERE FOR HIM SOON!
APPARENTLY, I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE BATTLE SITE AND BEGIN A SEARCH BY [illegible]!
YOU BOIL WITH MATERNAL WOMANLY THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU THE HORROR YOU ARE--
--BUT DO NOT DISPARAGE THE BLACK TALON UNDULY! AFTER ALL--
--IT IS MY POWERS UPON WHICH THIS ENTIRE PLAN RESTS!

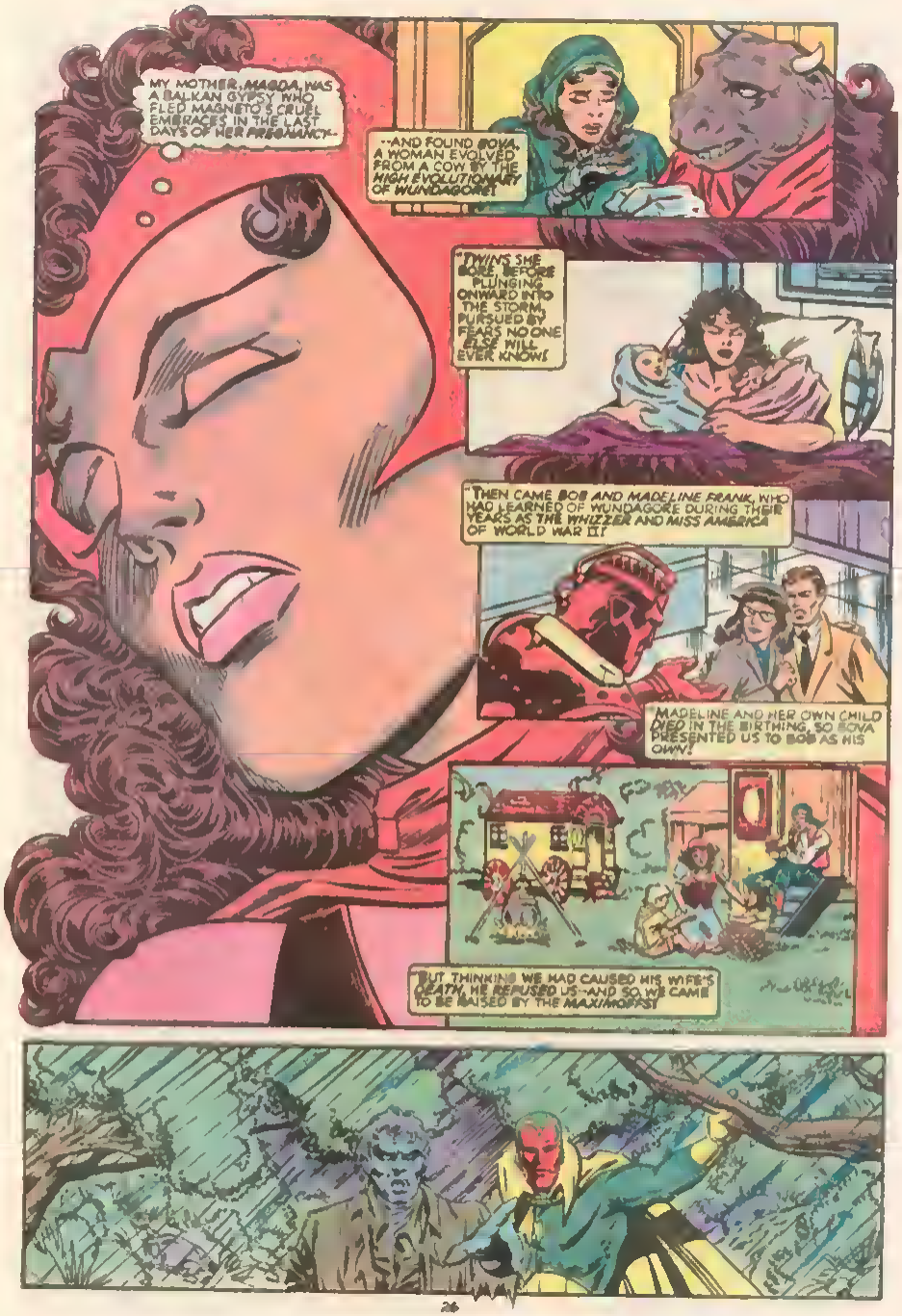
IN THE FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY, A CIRCUIT CLOSES.
...A MIND AWAKENS FROM DARKNESS...
...AND FEELS SHRIVELING AWAY...
...AND STARTS TO SHUT DOWN--
-BUT DOES NOT!
CANNOT?
CANNOT!
CANNOT SHUT DOWN!
BODY PROGRAMMED TO FLEE INTENSE PAIN AUTOMATICALLY!
MY MIND MUST OVERRIDE THAT!
FOR WANDA!
NO PAIN! THERE IS NO PAIN WITHIN ME THAT I CANNOT CONQUER!
I WILL SLIDE FREE-- GENTLY- GENTLY-
--AGH!
TUNK!

WANDA—?
NO... TOUCH...
NO. TOUCH.
YOU!! YOU KNOW WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN HER!
TELL ME OR I WILL TOUCH!
THE SUNKEN EYES GAPE GLASSILY AT THE GOLD-GLOVED FINGERS!
SOMETHING LIKE A SOB BUBBLES UP FROM THE LEATHERY THROAT!
THE ZOMBIE FEARS AND OBEYS ITS MASTER- BUT PAIN IS SO FOREIGN TO THE DEAD...
OTH..ERS... KNOW...WHERE ..SO..ON LY ..KNOW...
HE DRONES ON FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, MOSTLY REPEATING HIMSELF...
BUT AT LAST THE VISION NODS GRIMLY, AND POINTS...
...AND THE TWO OF THEM WAVER INTO THE DEEPER WOODS!

THE BLACK TALON IS AN IGNORANT SAVAGE! HIS VOODOO IS DANGEROUS, YES, BUT SO CRUDE COMPARED TO MY NATURAL POWER!
THE FEELING OF HATRED GIVES ME STRENGTH-- INVULNERABILITY!
THE EBONY EMOTION COURSES THROUGH MY ALBINO BODY, AND I BECOME SUPERIOR TO ANY OF HIS GRAVE-BORN GHOULS!
YET I ALLY MYSELF WITH HIM GLADLY--FOR THEREBY I GAIN SO MUCH MORE TO DESPISE!
I KNEW IT! HIS MINDLESS MINIONS HAVE LEFT ME NO CLUES!
I'M ON A WILD GOOSE CH--
NOW WHERE COULD THAT SYNTHOZOID BE--?

SO, WITCH-WE MEET AGAIN!
WHEN LAST YOUR PATH CROSSED MINE YOU USED YOUR ACCURSED HEX POWER TO THWART MY PLANS.
BUT MY ALLY HAS TOLD ME HOW YOU NEED YOUR HANDS TO HURL YOUR HEXES SO THIS TIME YOU ARE HELPLESS!
HE'S RIGHT--I CAN'T USE MY POWER WITHOUT PHYSICAL MOVEMENT--!
IT IS ACTUALLY YOUR HUSBAND I SEEK, WITCH! FOR HIM HAVE I COME TO THIS COLD AND BARREN LAND FROM MY NATIVE BAYOUS!
MY ALLY NEEDS HIM FOR A TERRIBLE PURPOSE THAT SOME MIGHT CALL MAD--THOUGH TO ME IT'S THE VALIDATION OF ALL I HOLD DEAR!
THERE! THERE IS THE SPOT TO WHICH I WILL PIN HIM!
THERE IS THE SECRET FOR WHICH MY ALLY HAS LABORED SO MIGHTILY!
WAIT! I CAN MOVE--ONE FINGER--!
WHAT IS THIS SECRET? WHO IS YOUR ALLY?
NO, WITCH--THE NATURE OF VOODOO IS TO TANTALIZE, BUT ONLY INITIATES MAY LEARN THE MYSTERIES!
YOU WILL BECOME AN INITIATE, NEVER FEAR--BUT ONLY WHEN THE VISION IS MINE!
THE TINIEST HEX--THAT'S ALL I CAN MANAGE! BUT IT'S A START--!

YOU MAY YET DRAW YOUR HUSBAND HERE, FOR I KNOW HIM TO BE RESOURCE FUL!
IF NOT, I HAVE OTHER ALLIES-- BUT FOR NOW, WE WILL WAIT!
..AND YOU WILL SLEEP!
THAT SMELL-- DEVIL'S DREAMWEED!
GOT TO FIGHT IT! PULL INTO MY DEEPEST SELF-- AND HOLD ON--!
MY NAME IS WANDA! NOT WANDA MAXIMOFF, THOUGH THAT'S THE LAST NAME OF THOSE WHO RAISED ME AND MY BROTHER, PIETRO!
--A.K.A. QUICKSILVER.
NOT WANDA FRANK, THE LAST NAME OF THOSE WE THOUGHT OUR PARENTS!
NOT WANDA MAGNUS, THE NAME OF OUR TRUE FATHER-- MAGNETO!
BUT WANDA! PERIOD! FOR MY HUSBAND HAS NO LAST NAME!

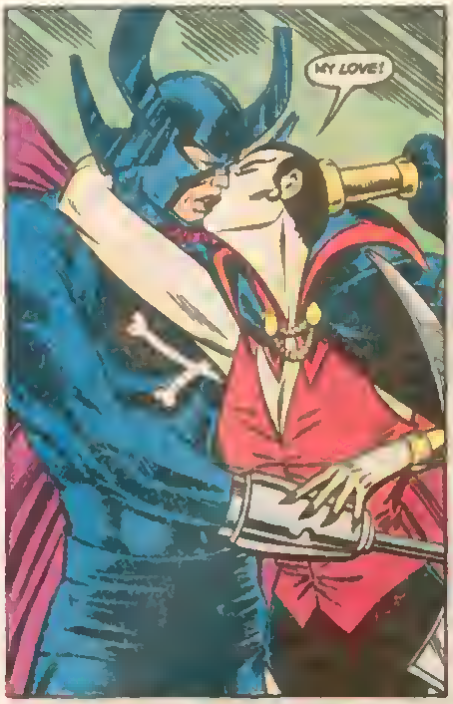

MY MOTHER, MAGDA, WAS A BALKAN GYPSY WHO FLED MAGNETO'S CRUEL EMBRACES IN THE LAST DAYS OF HER PREGNANCY--
--AND FOUND BOVA, A WOMAN EVOLVED FROM A COW BY THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY OF WUNDAGORE!
TWINS SHE BORE, BEFORE PLUNGING ONWARD INTO THE STORM, PURSUED BY FEARS NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER KNOW!
THEN CAME BOB AND MADELINE FRANK, WHO HAD LEARNED OF WUNDAGORE DURING THEIR YEARS AS THE WHIZZER AND MISS AMERICA OF WORLD WAR II!
MADELINE AND HER OWN CHILD DIED IN THE BIRTHING, SO BOVA PRESENTED US TO BOB AS HIS OWN!
BUT THINKING WE HAD CAUSED HIS WIFE'S DEATH, HE REFUSED US--AND SO WE CAME TO BE RAISED BY THE MAXIMOFFS!

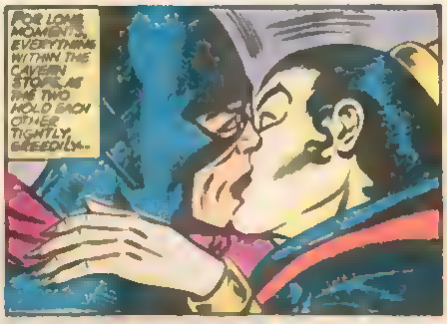
AS WE GREW, AND OUR MUTANT POWERS BECAME EVIDENT, THE VILLAGERS NEARBY TURNED ON US!
"PIETRO AND I WANDERED EUROPE FOR YEARS, WILLING OURSELVES TO FORGET OUR PAST, UNTIL MAGNETO--ALL UNKNOWING--RECRUITED US FOR HIS BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
"BUT WE WERE NEVER EVIL, THOUGH THE WORLD HAD CALLED US SO! WHEN MAGNETO WAS SEEMINGLY DESTROYED, WE TURNED TO THE MIGHTY AVENGERS--
"--AND WERE ACCEPTED! CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HAWKEYE--I TRUSTED US!
"THERE, IN TIME, I MET MY BELOVED-- AND AS ALWAYS, THE WORLD--AND EVEN MY BROTHER, THAT TIME--FAILED TO UNDERSTAND!
"WOMEN DO NOT LOVE MEN FOR THEIR BODIES SO MUCH AS FOR THEIR CHARACTERS!
"THE MAN WHO CONTROLLED THAT SYNTHETIC BODY--THAT WAS THE [illegible] I SAW WHEN NO ONE [illegible] COULD!
THAT WAS THE MAN I WOULD MARRY!

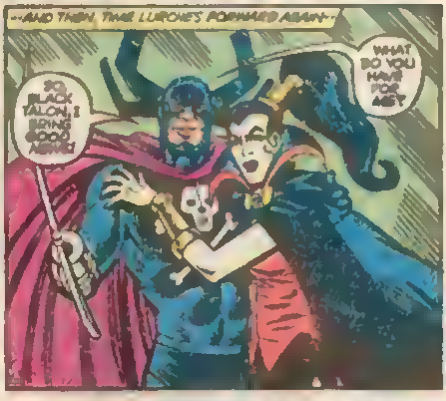
I FOUND NO SIGN OF HIM, BLACK TALON!
BUT OF COURSE, THE WEATHER OBLITERATED WHAT SIGN THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
I DON'T LIKE THAT! WHERE CAN HE BE?
COULD IT BE A TRICK? COULD HE HAVE FOLLOWED YOU
FOLLOWED ME?
FOLLOWED ME??
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! BUT HE MUST BE AROUND SOMEWHERE!
WITH ME! OUR ALLY WILL BE HERE WITHIN THE HOUR AND WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSES AGAINST ANY SURPRISES!
SHE SLEEPS FOR NOW! AND SHOULD SHE AWAKEN H-
WHAT ABOUT HER?
--AND HER GUARDS--WILL INSURE THAT SHE WON'T INTERFERE!

HERE! HERE IN THE CEMETERY NEAREST THE VISION'S HOUSE ARE ALL THE DEFENDERS A MAN COULD WANT!
THOUGH THE SUN YET RIDES ABOVE THE HORIZON, IT IS DARK AS MIDNIGHT IN THIS GROVE--
--AND SO, THE CEREMONY SHALL COMMENCE!
SOON, NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN EXTINGUISH THESE FLAMES! THE SHADOWS THEY THROW WHIRL SPIRALLOUSLY OVER THE ONCE-HALLOWED EARTH.
--AS DOES THE PRIESTESS OF ALL DARKNESSES!
FASTER AND FASTER DOES THE BLACK TALON BEAT OUT HIS RHYTHMS!
THE FIRE AND DANCES, AS IT SPATTERS IN THE DRIVING RAIN!
FASTER AND FASTER SHE WRITHES!
AND THEN--
--AND THEN--

...the Dead Arise!
COME!
COME!
YOU SERVE AS MY VOODOO QUEEN WITH FLOURISH, NERDAY PERHAPS YOU SHOULD STAY WITH ME ALWAYS!
YOU WISH, PIG!
UP FROM THE EARTH THEY COME, THE SILENT SHAMBLERS AND DOWN INTO ITS DEPTHS ONCE MORE THEY ARE LED!
THE RAIN RUNS ON IN THICK RIVULETS OVER THEIR CHALK, PALE FEET!
DOES ANY OF THEM WONDER WHY IT WALKS AGAIN? WHY ITS ETERNAL SLEEP HAS MET A NIGHTMARE?
NO ONE OF THEM SCREAMS TO AS THEY MARCH SINGLE-FILE TO FILL THE CRYPT'S FAR CORNERS!
THE LAST IS AS THE FIRST- A CRUMBLING MOCKERY OF WHAT WAS ONCE A VIBRANT INDIVIDUAL--!
AND THEN, THERE IS -ONE MORE!
AH! GRIM REAPER!
ERIC! YOU'RE HERE AT LAST!

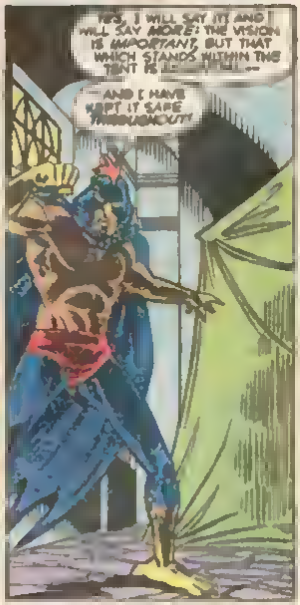

MY LOVE!


FOR LONG MOMENTS, EVERYTHING WITHIN THE CAVERN STOOD AS THE TWO HELD EACH OTHER TIGHTLY, GREEDILY...


--AND THEN, TIME LURCHES FORWARD AGAIN--
SO, BLACK TALON, I BRING GOOD NEWS!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?

HONORED ALLY, THE VISION IS NOT YET MINE, BUT SOON I SHALL HAVE THE
HIS DEAD MEN COULDN'T CATCH THE ARTIFICIAL MAN, ERIC! JUST AS I TOLD YOU!
MY DEAD YOU FAILED JUST AS COMPLETELY!
ENOUGH, TALON! LEAVE NEKRA OUT OF THIS!

ULTRON'S BONE HITS JOE IN CALIFORNIA! HE HAS WONDER MAN!
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURING THE OTHER PRETENDER TO MY BROTHER'S MEMORY, AND MY PLOT IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL YOU SUCCEED!
I HAD TWO JOBS, REAPER. WHILE YOUR WOMAN HAD NONE!


YES, I WILL SAY IT AND I WILL SAY MORE! THE VISION IS IMPORTANT, BUT THAT WHICH STANDS WITHIN THE TENT IS
AND I HAVE KEPT IT SAFE THROUGHOUT!

WRONG!!

NOE IT CANNOT BE!
VISION! YOU SCUM--!
SZAK
YOU! YOU MADE A FOOL OF ME!
AND YOU STRUCK MY MAN!
SLAM!
TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME, NEKRA!
VISION! HOWEVER DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
POWWW
A ZOMBIE LED ME TO THE CEMETERY HE CRAWLED FROM! I ASSUMED THE BLACK TALON DREW ALL HIS ARMY FROM THERE. SO I SANK INTO THE DIRT TO AWAIT HIS RETURN!
BUT YOU-- THEY HAVEN'T HARMED YOU?
NO! TALON THOUGHT I WAS HELPLESS!
THE SCARLET WITCH IS NEVER HELPLESS!

BECAUSE THE SCARLET WITCH HAS NEVER MET NEKRA!
HATE GIVES ME STRENGTH!
HATE GIVES ME INVUNER-ABILITY!
AND YOU GIVE ME A PAIN!
MY MUTANT POWERS ARE FORMIDABLE, BUT MY HUMAN POWERS SERVE ME JUST AS WELL!
IMPRESSIVE, WITCH-- BUT THIS LOATHSOME MACHINE IS BLESSED WITH NEITHER!
SHOOSH!
I KNOW EVERY DETAIL OF HIS CONSTRUCTION-- I'VE STUDIED HIM UNENDINGLY--

AND I CAN TURN HIM OFF-- FOREVER!
BUT YOU-- WON'T !
WHAT? SPEAK UP, CREATURE-- I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I SAID YOU WON'T TURN ME OFF!
YOU NEED ME FOR SOMETHING -- SOME NEW TWIST IN YOUR MAD DREAM OF REVENGE FOR THE DEATH OF YOUR BROTHER!
AND SO, YOU LEAVE ME ALIVE! AND SO
--YOU LOSE--
--EH?
ZOMBIES, TO ALL SIDES OF YOU, VISION
I HAVE YOU AT LAST!
TRY TO BREAK FREE OF THOSE WHO HOLD YOU!
BUT THERE IS NO ROOM TO GAIN LEVERAGE!
INDEED! THESE POOR SLAVES PACK EVER MORE TIGHTLY AROUND ME--!
--AND TO GO THROUGH THEM WOULD BRING BACK THE PAIN!

VISION!
ONCE SHE WAS WEAK! ONCE SHE COULD DO BUT ONE HEX BEFORE DRAINING HER MUTANT ENERGIES!
NO LONGER!
NOW SHE FIGHTS ON AND ON, WITH EACH HEX STRONGER THAN THE LAST!
IT CAN'T BE! I'M LOSING CONTROL--!
STOP! STOP!
CORRECTION, TALON! YOU'VE LOST CONTROL!
THE DEAD MEN OBEY NO ONE NOW!
SO LET CHAOS REIGN!
BLAST YOU, WITCH! YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST TRICK!
SSHAKK!
I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT KILLING HER, VISION!
SURRENDER, OR SHE BECOMES THE UNLIVING DEAD!
WHERE DID HE GO?

EEEEEE
EEAAAA!
ARRRAAA!
SUMMMH!
ARRR!
THERE HE IS! THERE!
THE PAIN IS BLINDING—CRIPPLING! HE WEIGHS NOTHING NOW, BUT STILL HE STAGGERS!
STAGGERS ON!
THIS IS THE KEY! THIS—
MY GOD!
HE HAS SEEN PICTURES! HE KNOWS THIS MAN!
SIMON WILLIAMS!

BUT THIS IS INSANE! SIMON WILLIAMS DOES NOT EXIST!
THIS SHORT, SKINNY MAN APPEARED FOR A TIME WHEN BARON ZEMO TRANSFORMED HIM INTO WONDER MAN!!
BUT INSANE OR NO, IT IS HIS LIFE AGAINST HERS, REAPER!
"HIS LIFE!" HA HA HA HA!
AND YET- HE MUST NOT BE HARMED! NOT NOW!
ALL RIGHT, VISION--IT IS A STANDOFF! HIS LIFE FOR HERS, INDEED!
WE WILL LEAVE WITH HIM--AND LEAVE YOUR WIFE TO YOU!
FOR NOW!
FOR NOW IS GOOD ENOUGH! GO!
WE ALSO LEAVE YOU MY ZOMBIES--
--BUT YOU BOTH WILL JOIN THEM SOON!

VISION--DON'T WAIT FOR ME--! I'LL GO AFTER THEM!
BUT--
TOO LATE! THEY'VE DEPARTED, FAR FASTER THAN I CAN FLY!
BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? HOW COULD THAT MAN HAVE BEEN--?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW!
BUT PERHAPS THERE'S A WAY TO FIND OUT--!
RRING
VISION! MY GOSH, BUDDY, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE--!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT! WONDER MAN'S BEEN TAKEN-- HANK PYM, TOO!
NO, I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET TOGETHER, RIGHT AWAY--!
AND SO THEY SHALL, AS THIS STORY CONTINUES IN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS #2 ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS! MISS IT NOT--BEFORE SAVORING THE WRAP-UP IN VISION & THE SCARLET WITCH #2!
--MARV WOLFMAN